

# **PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING REPORT**

for:

## **Lane Street Ground Water Contamination Elkhart, INDIANA**

PREPARED BY:

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF LAND QUALITY  
SITE INVESTIGATION

September 24, 2007

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



295018



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

*We make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live.*

---

*Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.*  
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September 26, 2007

Ms. Laura Ripley  
U.S. EPA, Region V  
Mail Code: SR-6J  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Ripley:

Re: Pre-CERCLIS Screening  
Lane Street Ground  
Water Contamination  
Elkhart, Indiana  
Site Summary

The site was reported to IDEM from a representative of the Elkhart County Health Department (ECHD). The ECHD received a call from a resident who resides on Lane Street. The resident, who obtains drinking water from a private well, had her water analyzed for volatile organic compounds. The analysis revealed elevated levels (1560 µg/l) of trichloroethylene (TCE). The maximum contaminant level for TCE is 5 µg/l.

Lane Street lies adjacent to a known ground water plume that is being addressed by IDEM's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). The responsible party for the known ground water plume in the area indicated that the contamination found on Lane Street is from another source because some of the contaminants are different than those detected in the known ground water plume and the geology of the area show the contamination of the known ground water plume is confined to a specific area east of Lane Street.

On August 23, 2007, Site Investigation staff sampled the ground water from seven (7) private wells on and north of Lane Street including the residence that had phoned the ECHD with the elevated TCE concentration. Analysis of the ground water samples revealed that the drinking water in four (4) residential wells were found to contain elevated levels of VOC's at concentrations above MCLs.

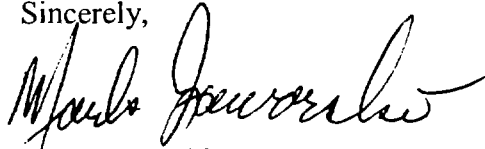
The site lies in a predominantly residential area providing many potential targets. Approximately 26 homes on Lane Street utilize private well for drinking water. These 26

Ms. Laura Ripley  
Page two of two

homes are located downgradient from the TCE contamination on Lane Street and may be subject to groundwater contamination.

Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this correspondence, please contact me at (317) 233-2407.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Jaworski", written in a cursive style.

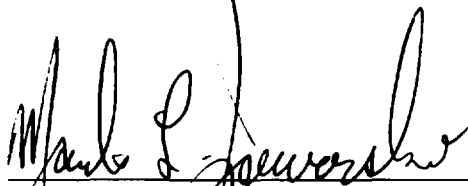
Mark Jaworski  
Site Investigation Section  
Office of Land Quality

MJ/sb

Signature Page

for  
Lane Street Groundwater Contamination  
Elkhart, Indiana  
ELKHART County

Prepared by:

  
Mark L. Jaworski, Project Manager  
Site Investigation Section  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Date:

9/24/07

Approved by

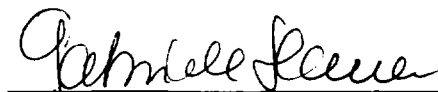
  
Tim Johnson, SEM 1

Site Investigation Section  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Date:

9/24/07

Approved by:

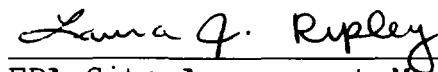
  
Gabriele Hauer Chief

Site Investigation Section  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Date:

10/17/07

Approved by:

  
EPA Site Assessment Manager

Date:

11/14/2007

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SECTION 2.0 SITE BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SECTION 3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SECTION 4.0 FIELD INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SECTION 5.0 MIGRATION PATHWAYS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Section 5.1 Ground Water.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Section 5.2 Surface Water.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Section 5.3 Soil Exposure.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Section 5.4 Air Route.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SECTION 6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Site Location Map .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Lane Street Sample Location Map .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Lane Street Sample Concentration Map .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SECTION 6.0 PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CHECKLIST/DECISION FORM</b>	

## **SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Site Investigation Section of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management conducted a Pre-CERCLIS Screening Assessment (PCS) at the Lane Street Ground Water Contamination site in Elkhart, Indiana. The site is located at the corner of County Road 106 and Lane Street in Elkhart County. The latitude and longitude for the site is 41° 43' 0.64"N Longitude: 085° 55' 15.22"W. The PCS is performed under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) commonly known as Superfund.

A PCS is a review of information on potential Superfund sites to determine whether the site should be entered into U.S. EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS). If, over the course of the investigation, there is sufficient information to suggest the site is impacting human health or the environment, the site can be placed in CERCLIS and will progress through the Superfund investigative process.

## **SECTION 2.0 SITE BACKGROUND**

The site was reported to IDEM from a representative of the Elkhart County Health Department (ECHD). The ECHD received a call from a resident who resides on Lane Street. The resident, who obtains drinking water from a private well, had her water analyzed for volatile organic compounds. The analysis revealed elevated levels (1560 ug/l) of trichloroethylene (TCE). The maximum contaminant level for TCE is 5 ug/l.

Lane Street lies adjacent to a known ground water plume that is being addressed by IDEM's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). The responsible party for the known ground water plume indicated that the contamination found on Lane Street is from another source because some of the contaminants in the Lane Street Wells were different than those detected in the known ground water plume and the geology of the area shows the contamination of the known ground water plume is confined to a specific area east of Lane Street.

The site lies in a predominantly residential area providing many potential targets. Approximately 26 homes on Lane Street utilize private well for drinking water. These 26 homes are located downgradient from the TCE contamination on Lane Street and may be subject to groundwater contamination.

### **Section 3.0 Site Description**

Lane Street is bounded to the north by County Road 106, to the east by Kershner Street, to the south by another residential subdivision and to the west by farm land. The site is located in a predominantly residential area providing many potential targets. An industrial park located north of County Road 106 is comprised of numerous plant buildings and offices. Refer to the Site Location Map on page 9.

### **SECTION 4.0 FIELD INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES**

On August 23, 2007, IDEM staff conducted a visual site reconnaissance of the surrounding properties. The majority of residents on and around Lane Street utilize private wells for drinking water. Numerous businesses and small industry lie in an industrial park located north of County Road 106.

After the site reconnaissance, Site Investigation staff sampled the ground water from

seven private wells on and north of Lane Street including the residence that had phoned the ECHD with the elevated TCE concentration. Refer to the Lane Street Ground Water Sample Map on page 10. Analysis of the groundwater samples revealed that the drinking water in four residential wells were found to contain elevated levels of VOC's at concentrations above MCLs. Refer to Ground Water Sample Contaminant Concentration map on page 11.

## **SECTION 5.0 MIGRATION PATHWAYS**

### **5.1 Ground Water**

According to the Soil Survey for Elkhart County published by the Soil Conservation Service, the soils on the subject property consist of Plainfield fine sand (P1A). The Plainfield series consists of deep excessively drained, coarse-textured soils that are level to moderately sloping and occupy outwash plains and knolls. The soil is found on broad sandy outwash plains.

Approximately 26 residences on Lane Street obtain drinking water from private wells. The private wells have been completed in underlying sand and gravel deposits. The nearest municipal wells for the City of Elkhart are located approximately 2 miles to the southeast on the south side of the St. Joseph River. The municipal wells are also screened in the sand and gravel deposits. As stated in Section 4.0, the drinking water from five private residential wells was found to be impacted with volatile organic compounds.

### **5.2 Surface Water**

The nearest surface water bodies to Lane Street are Puterbaugh Creek, located about 1 mile to the west, and the Saint Joseph River located about one and a half miles to the south. Because drainage from the subject area is controlled by a storm water collection system, the



overland flow segment of the surface water pathway, and the probable point of entry (PPE) to these streams can not be established at the time of the PCS. Both of these streams are considered fisheries. There are no known surface water intakes in these water bodies. The surface water migration pathway evaluation is considered incomplete.

### **5.3 Soil Exposure**

Soil areas outlined within the study area of the Lane Street Ground Water Contamination are accessible to the public and workers of businesses located in the Lane Street area. There are no schools or daycare facilities within 200 feet of the site. No soil samples were collected as part of this PCS. This inspection has insufficient information to determine if the soil exposure pathway has been impacted.

### **5.4 Air Pathway**

No air samples were taken during this inspection. Presently, there are no reports of adverse health effects resulting from the migration of hazardous substances through the air. Since no outside air samples were obtained, it is not known if there is any potential risk to nearby residents by the air pathway.

## **SECTION 6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

The site was reported to IDEM from a representative of the Elkhart County Health Department (ECHD). The ECHD received a call from a resident who resides on Lane Street. The resident, who obtains drinking water from a private well, had her water analyzed for volatile organic compounds. The analysis revealed elevated levels (1560 ug/l) of trichloroethylene

(TCE). The maximum contaminant level for TCE is 5 ug/l.

Lane Street lies adjacent to a known ground water plume that is being addressed by IDEM's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). The responsible party for the known ground water plume indicated that the contamination found on Lane Street is from another source because some of the contaminants are different than those detected in the known ground water plume and that the geology of the area show the contamination of the known ground water plume is confined to a specific area east of Lane Street.

The site lies in a predominantly residential area providing many potential targets in the event of an off site release of hazardous materials. Approximately 26 homes on Lane Street utilize private well for drinking water. These 26 homes are located downgradient from the TCE contamination on Lane Street and may be subject to groundwater contamination. August 23, 2007 confirmed that the drinking water from at least four private residential wells was found to contain elevated levels of chlorinated solvents at levels above MCLs. Since a potential exist for other residential wells to contain elevated levels of VOCs staff recommends that the site be entered into CERCLIS.



HEATON

LAKE

Lane Street Sample  
Site Location Map  
Elkhart, Indiana  
Elkhart County

771

770

Geocel

769

Site

26

Substati

765

770

Bold Line indicates  
Geocel Affected  
Area Boundary

Yellow indicates  
Lane Street Ground Water  
Contamination Area

Map Drawn by M. Jaworski

0 410 820 1,640 Feet



Lane Street Sample Location Map  
Elkhart, Indiana  
Elkhart County





Lane Street Sample  
Concentration Map  
Elkhart, Indiana  
Elkhart County





# PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST/DECISION FORM

This checklist can assist the site investigator during the Pre-CERCLIS screening. It will be used to determine whether further steps in the site investigation process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets for the narrative.

**Checklist Preparer:** Mark Jaworski/Environmental Manager 9/17/07  
 (Name/Title) (Date)  
100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 317/233-2407  
 (Address) (Phone)  
mjaworsk@idem.IN.gov  
 (E-Mail Address)

**Site Name:** Lane Street Ground Water Contamination

**Previous Names (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Site Location:** Lane Street and County Road 106  
 (Street)  
Elkhart Elkhart IN , 46514  
 (City) (County) (ST) (Zip)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Congressional District)

**Latitude:** 41° 43' 0.64"N **Longitude:** 085° 55' 15.22"W

With regards to the Latitude and Longitude, please provide the following information: Accuracy in Meters +/-, Collection Method, Reference Datum, Reference Point, Source Map Scale, Point/Line/Area; Collection Date; Verification Method (see attached):

Complete the following checklist. If "yes" is marked, please explain below.

	YES	NO
1. Does the site already appear in CERCLIS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the release from products that are part of the structure of, and result in exposure within, residential buildings or businesses or community structures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the site consist of a release of a naturally occurring substance in its unaltered form, or altered solely through naturally occurring processes or phenomena, from a location where it is naturally found?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the release into a public or private drinking water supply due to deterioration of the system through ordinary use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Is some other program actively involved with the site (i.e., another Federal, State, or Tribal program)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (i.e., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site excluded by policy considerations (e.g., deferral to RCRA Corrective Action)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Is there sufficient documentation that clearly demonstrates that there is no potential for a release that could cause adverse environmental or human health impacts (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, EPA approved risk assessment completed)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Is there documentation indicating that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on-site or immediately adjacent to the site or nearby (within 1 mile)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Are there no releases or potential to release?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Please explain all "yes" answer(s), attach additional sheets or refer to narrative:**

- Site Determination:**      ☒      Enter the site into CERCLIS. Further assessment is recommended (explain below).
- ☐      The site is not recommended for placement into CERCLIS (explain below).

**DECISION/DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:** The site lies in a predominantly residential area providing many potential targets in the event of an off site release of hazardous materials. In October 2006, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted for the Geocel facility located at 53280 Marina Road in Elkhart, Indiana. The ESA concluded that a subsurface investigation should be completed in the vicinity of a former (PCE) UST. The UST was removed in 1986. Subsequent investigations in this area indicated that a release of chlorinated solvents had occurred to the ground water pathway. The chlorinated solvents were found to have migrated off site to the south into a residential area. All residents in this area obtain drinking water from individual private wells. The water in many of the residential wells was found to contain elevated levels of volatile organic compounds. Geocel supplied carbon filters to the residents.

Geocel alerted IDEM and the Elkhart County Health Department about the ground water contamination and applied to IDEM's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). Geocel was accepted in the program on July 12, 2007.

Geocel's investigation concluded that the ground water contamination was confined to an area bordered by Kershner Street to the west, the Geocel facility to the north, County Road 113 to the east, and Crestwood Street to the south.

On August 22, 2007, Site Investigation of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) staff received a call from the Elkhart County Health Department (ECHD). The ECHD stated that a resident located at 43514 Lane Street had submitted a sample of her drinking water to the Water Quality Laboratory at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. The analysis of the water revealed highly elevated levels of trichloroethylene (1560 µg/l) and other break down products. Geocel is denying responsibility for the contamination on Lane Street because the ground water contamination lies outside of their area of influence, and that the ground water plume appears to be another plume consisting of other contaminants not detected on Kershner St.

On August 23, 2007, Site Investigation conducted a site visit on Lane Street along with John Hulewicz of the ECHD. Staff noted that approximately 25 homes lie due south of the 43514 Lane residence. All 25 homes were found to utilize private wells for drinking water. These wells are within the direction of ground water flow (south-southwest) from the residence at 43514 Lane Street and may be subject to elevated levels of trichloroethylene in their drinking water.

Site Investigation Staff recommends that a Preliminary Assessment be conducted to further assess the impact of volatile organic compounds to the residential private wells on Lane Street and to the north within the industrial park located to the north.

#### **EPA Regional Review and Site Assessment Decision**

**Check the box(es) that apply:**

- ☐      Not a Valid Site or Incident
- ☐      Incident for Further Action Under CERCLA

**Recommended Further Action:**

- ☐      APA
- ☒      Full PA
- ☐      Combined PA/SI
- ☐      SI

**Defer/Refer to:**

- ☐ Removal Program  
☐ State/Tribal Program  
☐ RCRA  
☐ Brownfields  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Regional EPA Reviewer:**

LAURA J. RIPLEY / Laura J. Ripley 11/14/2007  
Print Name/Signature Date

**State Agency/Tribe:**

Mark Jaworski / Mark Jaworski 9/17/07  
Print Name/Signature Date